

Wigwam to Wigwam

Your "House to House" News

Wigwamen Incorporated, 310-25 Imperial Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5P 1B9 www.wigwamen.com

Flower Power 2000



Just one of
Wigwamen's many
beautiful gardens!

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General Manager's Report

Just when you thought it was safe to open your mail...we're back!

It's been a busy time over the summer, with the Board and staff being kept occupied with a multitude of initiatives. Here are just a few of the things we've been dealing with:

Flower Power 2000:

We had more entries in the Flower Power 2000 contest this year than we had last year, and as the picture on page 1 shows, the results were absolutely wonderful!

A panel consisting of Director Eric Carlson, Tenant Relations Officer Jodi Hetherington, and Financial Controller Wayne Vincent took a day carefully inspecting each and every one of the properties entered, and after a long and careful deliberation, awarded the first prize to Carol Jeffries; second prize to Carol Rainville, and third prize to Elaine Martin. Congratulations to the winners, and to all of you who took the time to participate!

Unit Inspections:

This is the third year in a row that we have set out to systematically inspect each of our family housing units, with Jodi Hetherington and Mel Dokis visiting the units in 1998; Mel Dokis and I visiting them in 1999; and Ron Timoon and myself inspecting them this year. To date this year, Ron and I have visited almost 150 of our 215 family units, and maintenance staff are attempting to address the concerns as quickly as we are able.

We're not there yet, but there is, to my eyes at least, a significant improvement in the overall condition of our units. To all of you who are still waiting, you have my word that we will keep this process up until we're satisfied that each of our units is in a condition which we can be proud of.

New AFN Grand Chief

When the final votes were counted on Wednesday, July 12, 2000, Cree leader and activist Matthew Coon Come was celebrated as the new Grand Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN).

Known for his outspoken stand on Aboriginal rights, Coon Come has promised to take First Nations concerns to the international forum, to reassert land claims, and to demand that Canada respect its own laws regarding Aboriginal rights to land and resources.

“Behaving like good little Indians never got us anywhere.”
Moreover, there is a social time bomb ticking away in Native communities across Canada, says the new Grand Chief. Native people have used the courts, and tried negotiations, but now the time has come to seek the support of international human

rights groups, and use it to pressure Ottawa.

Born in 1956 on his parents' trapline in northern Quebec, Coon-Come has spent most of his adult life in the political field. He participated in negotiations on behalf of the James Bay Cree which led to the first Aboriginal self-government legislation in Canada. He served two terms as Chief in his community of Mistissini, and was elected as Grand Chief of the Grand Council of Crees in 1987.

Coon Come was also a key player in fighting Hydro-Quebec's Great Whale hydro-electricity dam project in 1994. Now, the new leader of the AFN, an organization with represents more than 600 communities across the country, wants to continue his political activism on behalf of *all* First Nations concerns in Canada.

Household Hints: Cleaning Tips

Bubble gum on carpet/rug:

Harden the gum with an ice cube, then crush it with pliers and rub it out of the fabric. If any stain remains, sponge with cleaning fluid, and repeat if necessary.

Candle wax on carpet/rug:

Hold an ice cube on the wax to harden it, then break or scrape off as much as you can. If you place a few layers of paper towel over the spots and then apply a *moderately* hot iron, most of the remaining wax will be absorbed.



Lime deposit on bathroom tub or tiles:

A build-up of lime deposit from hard water can be easily removed with vinegar.

Food stains on countertop:

Often these stains can be removed with full strength laundry bleach.

Burnt food on the bottom of enamel cooking pot:

Put a strong salt solution in the pot and let it soak for a couple of hours. Cover the pot and bring it to a slow boil. This should remove the burnt food.

Did you know....

Besides an ingredient in desserts, baking soda can also be used for:

- Shining silver
- Scrubbing a sink
- Removing a carpet stain
- Refreshing a refrigerator
- Brushing your teeth!

Lease Excerpt

To make a house a home, Wigwamen tenants may want to adorn the walls with pictures, posters, mirrors, and other hanging decorations. Please be aware that with regards to the interior walls of your unit, your lease agreement with Wigwamen Incorporated states the following:

No large nail, screw, spike, hook, or like device shall be put into walls or woodwork of the premises without the prior written approval and supervision of the Landlord.

(Schedule A, Section 11)

This does not mean that you require permission every time you want to hang a picture on your living room wall. But if you are thinking about installing such things as shelves, a coat rack, or hooks or brackets for hanging plants, you must first obtain written approval from Wigwamen.

As your landlord, Wigwamen also reserves the right to supervise the installation.



This section of the lease continues by stating that **smaller** devices, such as nails and screws, may be put into walls or woodwork **provided that proper care and caution is exercised.**

It is your responsibility as a tenant to exercise good judgment when decorating your home. Remember the condition of the unit at the time of your move-in, and give consideration to future tenants.

Zero Balance Club Honour Roll

The tenants listed below are members of Wigwamen's Zero Balance Club Monthly Draw for a \$50.00 gift certificate.

Nicole Young

Gary & Theresa McKay

Ines Alvis & Isa Askarizadeh

Suzette Darby

Tina Neshkawa

Cindy Jacko

Daisy Hahnfeld

Paul Kornidesz

Samantha Cote

Judy Miller

Myrtle York

Ida Shaggi-Jawan

Evelyn LeTourneau

Ken King

Colbertha Robinson

Valerie Maracle

Sandra Neshkawa

Mary Howk

Wigwamen salutes all the club's members for being responsible tenants!

To be involved, all you need to do is have your rental payment in by the first of every month. You will then be automatically entered into the Zero Balance Monthly Draw.

Who's Who at Wigwamen

As a non-profit organization, Wigwamen Incorporated is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The members of this board are highly experienced and committed to providing decent and affordable housing for Aboriginal individuals and families.

Arnold May lives in Toronto and works for Ontario Power Generation (formerly called Ontario Hydro) where he is a Senior Advisor on Aboriginal relations. He is also the spokesperson for Native Circle, a networking organization and advisory group for Native employees at the company.

Arnold grew up in the Northern Ontario communities of Serpent River and Spanish. Having regained his status in 1985, he is now a member of the Nippissing First Nation. He has served as a Director for Wigwamen since February 1996, and brings to the organization skills in mediation and in alternative dispute resolution.

Terrace Happenings

First of all...

A warm welcome is extended to new Terrace resident Shawani Campbell!

Rick Fanjoy has been busy at the Terrace this summer. Among other things, he is responsible for the new courtyard benches, the freshly painted balconies, and the new trellis on the rooftop. Keep up the great work!

Terrace residents and staff would like to thank Brent Milburn from the Life Long Care Program at Council Fire for providing transportation services to the mass service held for Marie Taylor on July 25, 2000. His help was truly appreciated.

After a relaxing summer vacation, the Seniors' Club is now getting back into the swing of things. Their first event of the Fall, a ***Loonie Auction***, was held on September 29th!

Last, but not least...

The new patio furniture was finally purchased in August. Before the

summer draws to a close, get up to the rooftop terrace to relax in comfort!

Terrace Community Kitchen

The following quick and easy recipe is one that kids can do themselves, and great fun for a picnic!

BANANA DOGS

3/4 cup creamy or chunky peanut butter
2 tbsp. honey
4 hot dog buns, split
2 small bananas

Mix peanut butter and honey in small bowl. Spread about 3 tbsp. of the mixture onto each hot dog bun. Peel bananas and slice them in half length-wise. Place one banana half into each hot dog bun, and ta-da, it's done!

Tip: To prevent the bananas from going brown, spread lemon juice over them using a pastry brush.

(Source: Better Homes and Gardens. *Step-By-Step Kids' Cook Book*. Des Moines, Iowa: Meredith Corp., 1984)

Children's Book Review:

"Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone"

By J.K. Rowling

The Harry Potter books are an incredibly popular series these days. They are being read and enjoyed by kids as young as eight, and are enjoyable even for adults. In fact, the stories have become so loved that a Harry Potter movie is currently in the works.

"Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" (also called *"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone"*) is the first book in the series. It introduces Harry, an 11-year-old boy who discovers that he has magical powers. He is an orphan, forced to live with mean relatives because his parents killed by an evil wizard. Harry survived the attack, with a lightning-shaped scar on his forehead.

To learn more about how to be a wizard, Harry attends Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The stories in this book revolve around his friends and adventures during his first year at the school.

This book is fun to read. As expressed by one young reader: "It's a really good book. I couldn't put it down. I read it twice!"

Meanwhile, author J.K. Rowling is still busy working on new titles for the Harry Potter Series. Each book is a year in Harry's life, and to date the first four have been written. It is expected that there will be seven books in total, until Harry is old enough to graduate from Hogwarts School.

Here are the other published titles in the Harry Potter series:

"Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets"

"Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban"

"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire"

Fun Page: Magic Tricks!

Floating Arms:

Tell a friend that you can magically raise their arms without even touching them. Have your friend to stand in a doorway and press the backs of their hands as hard as they can against the door frame while you count to 25. Now tell your friend to step away from the door frame and relax. Watch out for flying arms!

Magic Math:

Pick any number. Now double it and add 5. Add 12. Subtract 3. Now halve it. Take away the number you first picked. The answer is always 7!

Card Trick:

- 1) Count out 21 cards from a deck. Place them in three piles of seven cards each.
- 2) Pick up one of the piles of cards in front of you. Fan the seven cards out face up so anyone can see them.
- 3) Ask a friend to choose a card and remember it. (He or she can't tell you what it is).
- 4) Put the deck back together, placing the pile with the secret card in between the other two piles.
- 5) Deal the cards face up in 3 piles of 7 cards each. Move from left to right, putting *one card on each pile each time you deal*. Make sure your friend is watching you.
- 6) When you're done, ask your friend to point to the pile that contains the secret card.
- 7) Gather the cards up again, carefully keeping the pile with the secret card between the other two.
- 8) Deal the cards into a single pile. Count the cards *silently*.
- 9) Then "Ta da!" Show the secret card. It will always be the eleventh one.



(Source: Baillie, Marilyn. *Magic Fun*. Toronto: Greedy de Pencier Books, 1991)

I AM ABORIGINAL!

I'm sure most of you have heard the "I am Canadian" Molson Canadian advertisement. Here is another version...

How.

I do not have a tipi in my backyard,
or know how to track wild game in ten metres of snow.

I do not own a car that goes only in reverse,
or know anyone that does.

I have a Chief, not a mayor.

I say "hello," I do not say "how."

I do not play bingo (at least not every night).

Not all reserves have casinos.

I've never used the phrase "dance me outside,"
and I do not know Mary Pitawanaquat from Kapuskasing,
or Ryan Soudliapuk from Inuvik,

but I am sure they are very spiritual people.

I believe that Aboriginal art *is* art, not crafts.

I believe that Indian Tacos contain all the four food groups.

I prefer tea over coffee, and Bannock over bread.

I know that Tonto was smarter than Kimosabe,
and that Columbus *was* lost.

And it is pronounced Kanata, not Canada, KANATA!

AND I WILL PROUDLY WAVE THE CANADIAN FLAG WITH THE INDIAN
OVER THE MAPLE LEAF AT ALL NATIVE ROAD BLOCKS!

WE ARE THE "FIRST NATION" OF LACROSSE,

THE TRUE INVENTORS OF HOCKEY,

AND THE BEST PART OF TURTLE ISLAND!!

I AM JOE TWO-FEATHERS!!!

AND I AM ABORIGINAL!!!

Written by Peter Jones and Katherine Walker.